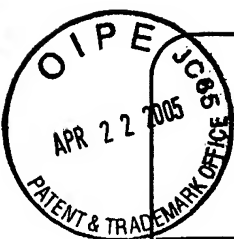


*IPW*



## TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission 9

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Application Number   | 10/815,160      |
| Filing Date          | March 31, 2004  |
| First Named Inventor | Brian E. Dalton |
| Art Unit             | 3731            |
| Examiner Name        | Daniel J. Davis |
| Attorney Docket No.  | BBM-118US       |

### ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Fee Transmittal Form
- ☐ Fee Attached
- ☒ Amendment/Reply
  - ☐ After Final
  - ☐ Affidavits/Declaration(s)
- ☐ Extension of Time Request
- ☐ Express Abandonment Request
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
- ☐ Response to Missing Parts/  
Incomplete Application
  - ☐ Response to Missing Parts  
under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53

- ☐ Drawing(s)
- ☐ Licensing-related Papers
- ☐ Petition
- ☐ Petition to Convert to a  
Provisional Application
- ☐ Power of Attorney, Revocation,  
Change of Correspondence  
Address
- ☐ Terminal Disclaimer
- ☐ Request for Refund
- ☐ CD, Number of CD(s) \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☐ Landscape Table on CD

- ☐ After Allowance Communication  
to TC
- ☐ Appeal Communication to Board  
of Appeals and Interferences
- ☐ Appeal Communication to TC  
(Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply  
Brief)
- ☐ Proprietary Information
- ☐ Status Letter
- ☒ Other Enclosure(s) (please  
identify below):  
Return Receipt Postcard

Remarks:

### SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT

|              |                         |                  |        |
|--------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------|
| Firm Name    | RatnerPrestia           |                  |        |
| Signature    | <i>Ellen E. Fielitz</i> |                  |        |
| Printed Name | Ellen E. Fielitz        |                  |        |
| Date         | April 20, 2005          | Registration No. | 54,746 |

### CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION / MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below:

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| Signature             | <i>Nicole M. Chatmon</i> |      |                |
| Typed or Printed Name | Nicole M. Chatmon        | Date | April 20, 2005 |

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Office, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

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Appln. No.: 10/815,160  
Amendment Dated: April 20, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of March 8, 2005

BBM-118US



Appln. No: 10/815,160  
Applicant: Brian E. Dalton  
Filed: March 31, 2004  
Title: BONE FIXATION ASSEMBLY AND METHOD OF SECUREMENT  
T.C./A.U.: 3731  
Examiner: Daniel J. Davis  
Confirmation No.: 8191  
Docket No.: BBM-118US

**AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated March 8, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

- ☒ **Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.
- ☒ **Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.